

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-05 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /124 W

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R 211640Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8148

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 0257

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 00542

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EEC

SUBJECT: SIMONET, OF THE EC COMMISSION, ON ENERGY

REF: EC BRUSSELS 208

1. ON JANUARY 20 JUST PRIOR TO THE EC COUNCIL MEETING (SEPTTEL) EC COMMISSIONER FOR ENERGY SIMONET OUTLINED THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSALS ON ENERGY (REFTEL) IN A PRESS CONFERENCE. HE STRESSED THE NEED FOR THE COMMUNITY TO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT IN THE IEA BUT NOTED THAT IT WAS CLEAR MEMBER STATES WOULD ACT INDEPENDENTLY IF COMMON POSITIONS IN THE EC COULD NOT BE DEVELOPED. THIS HE REGRETTED, SAYING SUCH A CASE MIGHT END UP IN THE COURT OF JUSTICE.

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2. SIMONET ALSO OUTLINED THE COMMISSION POSITION ON ENERGY

CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES WHICH, ALONG WITH FINANCIAL SOLIDARITY, HE SAID, WERE AREAS IN WHICH PROGRESS WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE PRIOR TO THE CONSUMER/PRODUCER CONFERENCE. HE SAID IN THE SHORT TERM THE COMMUNITY COULD REDUCE OIL CONSUMPTION BY SOME 7 PERCENT WITHOUT AFFECTING ECONOMIC GROWTH. ON DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SOURCES HE SAID THE COMMISSION ADVOCATED MAINTENANCE OF SOLID FUEL PRODUCTION, DEVELOPMENT OF NEW RELIABLE SOURCES OF OIL AND GAS, AN INCREASE OF NUCLEAR-GENERATED ELECTRICITY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER ENERGY SOURCES.

3. SIMONET REJECTED WHAT HE CALLED THE AMERICAN APPROACH TO PRICING, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS ESTABLISHING A PRICE FOR ALL ENERGY SOURCES AT THE LEVEL OF THE MOST COSTLY, WHICH IS NOW OIL. INSTEAD, HE SAID, THE COMMISSION PROPOSED A FLEXIBLE PLAN OF SPECIFIC DIRECT INTERVENTION TO PROTECT ONLY CERTAIN INVESTMENTS AGAINST FALLING PRICES. GREENWALD

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